

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows.

Please add the following new paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24:

Fig. 5 is a side view of view of a stopper and an antimicrobial-bearing element.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] Iodine-bearing flexible rod 15 may comprise a bio-compatible polymer material, such as a polycarbonate, urethane, ethyl, vinyl acetate, nylon, etc., adapted to carry the iodine to be released when the iodine-bearing rod is inserted through catheter 8. In addition iodine-bearing flexible rod 15 may be affixed at its proximal end to a side arm tube end cap 16, as illustrated in Fig. 3. While attachment of iodine-bearing flexible rod 15 to cap 16 is not necessary for the use of the present invention, attachment to cap 16 permits an operator to avoid directly touching the proximal end of iodine-bearing flexible rod 15 while inserting or removing the rod through the catheter. In this embodiment, cap 16 contains internal threads 18 which cooperate with external threads about the proximal end of side arm tube 13 (not shown) to seal side arm tube 13 when iodine-bearing flexible rod 15 is inserted into the catheter. Other cap engagement configurations may alternatively be used, as long as cap 16 effectively seals side arm tube 13, such as a stopper which frictionally engages the inner or outer surfaces of the side arm tube (e.g., as depicted as element 20 in Fig. 5), an externally threaded cap, or bayonet features that cooperate with corresponding features on the end of side arm tube 13.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 22 with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] It will be appreciated by persons of ordinary skill in the art that the wall of the catheter (depicted as element 19 in Fig. 2) within the patient's body may be semi-permeable, allowing passage of iodine released from the iodine-bearing intervention device from the catheter lumen to an outer surface of the catheter. For example, the wall of the catheter lumen may be constructed of polyurethane, polycarbonate or ethyl vinyl acetate.